

*not used*

REPLIES TO QUESTIONS CONCERNING GENERAL ARAMI (Sedeo)  
PROFOUNDED BY LAWRENCE J. MC LEUS, SUBMITTED BY  
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THE BRITISH EMBASSY, TOKYO, 1921-1926 AND 1926-1939.

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1. Since he was the Conducting Officer of Foreign Attache at the annual Grand Manoeuvres of the Japanese Army in Shikoku in the Autumn of 1922. He was then a Colonel,
2. I was not in Japan at the dates in question.
3. Between 1936 and 1939 I had very many conversations with General ARAMI, and the Manchurian situation was no doubt often discussed.
4. The Manchurian situation during the period mentioned was not the live issue that it was in 1931-1932, as the State of Manchukuo was firmly established, and recognized by some countries; Great Britain had sent an Economic Mission there in 1934.
  - 1-A. No such policy was advocated; consolidation and defense were his theme.
  - B. The "affair" no longer existed. He regretted the occasional frontier incidents with the Russians, and the fact that Great Britain and the United States had not recognized the new State.
  - C. No personal knowledge, as four or five years had elapsed since the "incident" had been settled, when I was appointed Military Attache in 1936.
  - D. He had greater belief in friendship with Great Britain and the United States than in membership of the League of Nations. He appeared to have little liking for foreign nations, most of which he did not feel worthy friends for Japan, -- other than the first-named two.
  - E. No personal knowledge.
  - F. No personal knowledge. From what I have heard from many good judges his speeches were based on a type of mystical patriotism, which made him the idol of the young officers. No doubt unfriendly critics would term some of his utterances flamboyant or even aggressive; but national psychology must be taken into account in appraising their true value.
  - G. As a member of the Cabinet his political activities (an expression which would appear to require closer definition) were naturally considerable.

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- H. The Minister of War in Japan has great influence and had direct access to the Emperor. As I was not in touch officially with Japanese affairs at this time I find it difficult to reply to this question.
- 2-A. Generally speaking I should say that General ARAMI was far too intelligent to advocate World Domination, but sincerely felt that Japanese influence should be paramount in East Asia; in other words he felt that Japan was the strongest Power in that region, and was better able to keep order than any other. If this is "aggression" then he was an exponent of it; but it was Japanese influence rather than territory that he wished to expand, after the Manchurian Affair had been settled.
- B. In this means "did he advocate an attack on, say, Australia or Indo-China", I have not heard of such an address.
5. A. This was an entirely new role for a retired General, but he brought to his task much imagination, and liberal ideas; the word benevolent perhaps would not be out of place. He took a personal part in arranging for a youth organization which was visiting Germany (I believe at Hitler's invitation) to include England in their tour. The British Council should have some record of this; the year was 1938.
- B. I have often heard him denounce communism; it might almost be called an obsession. I cannot recall his having spoken very much about fascism; if he had done so he probably approved of it elsewhere as an antidote to communism, but not as suitable to Japan, which had a policy of its own, unique and hard to explain to foreigners.
- C. There is no anti-semitism in Japan, and I should think the action described not unlikely, though I cannot recall hearing of it. (It may be remarked that there is a school of thought among certain students of Japan ascribing to them the position of one of the Lost Ten Tribes.)
- D. I have never heard him discuss this question.
6. I should say he was tolerant of all. His mysticism would naturally make him very interested in the subject. One of his favourite analogies was that God made the nations of the world in the pattern of a garden, containing trees, shrubs, flowers, and weeds; he was fond of identifying certain nations with all four categories, -- Great Britain and the United States being in the first. It would be invidious to specify the others, especially the fourth.
7. Yes. Sir Robert Craigie and Captain M. D. Kennedy

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know him, the latter very well indeed. The late Colonel E. A. H. James, my predecessor as Military Attache, (1932-1936) knew him very well and had a high opinion of him. No doubt the two former will speak for themselves.

A. Often.

B. This question refers apparently to Japanese friends of his. His reputation is hard to describe accurately, as his numerous utterances covered so wide a field that it was out of the question for everyone to agree with everything he said all the time. My summing-up of my talks with other Japanese is that General ARUKI stood for a Pax Japonica, was a sincere believer in honesty, and was a reliable mirror of Japanese mentality; it was his misfortune that as an exponent of this mentality and of his country's policy and destiny his hyperbole assumed an importance greater than the hard facts beneath in the ears of foreign listeners, for whom his speeches had been (often indifferently) translated.

(signed) F. S. G. Piggott  
M.G.

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